

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2011

Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Room 10022
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

We received notice of the U.S. Postal Service's final decision to consolidate the Sioux City, Iowa Processing and Distribution Facility to the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Processing and Distribution Facility. That notice included an assurance that "the community's input was valued and carefully considered before making this decision."

We have asserted before that the information made available at the April 26 public meeting held in Sioux City did not provide sufficient explanation of the proposal and specific questions about how the consolidation would affect the community were not fully answered. Due to this lack of information, the feedback the community provided was inherently general and speculative. On June 9, you provided some of the requested data to Senator Grassley to share with the community with the understanding that this would allow the community to provide more informed input. However, this takes time to analyze and Sioux City has been faced with severe flooding in the past week requiring the attention of city and community leaders. Also, the City of Sioux City has offered to sit down and discuss alternatives to preserve mail processing in Sioux City that would accommodate the Postal Service's desire for efficiencies while also meeting the community's needs, but the Postal Service was not receptive.

We request that you suspend the decision to close the Sioux City Processing and Distribution Facility until the Siouxland community has had the opportunity to review the data you provided and provide any input based on that data. We also ask that Postal Service officials meet with the City of Sioux City to discuss possible alternatives to closing the Sioux City facility. Then, we would ask that a new decision be made that takes full account of the Siouxland community's input.

Thank you for your attention to our requests. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Chuck Grassley
United States Senator


Tom Harkin
United States Senator


Steve King
United States Representative